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THE BASIN STREET BLUES

The Firehouse Jazz Band

Spencer Williams - 1928

There are several stories about the origin of this very popular Dixieland song. One documented version is that Williams had written only the chorus, but the day the first recording was to be made (with Goodman, Teagarden, etc. on the session) the arranger brought in a verse with lyrics which he had written. The young arranger was Glenn Miller.

Recorded by: Louis Armstrong 1928, Charleston Chasers (Red Nichols, etc.) 1931, Benny Goodman 1934, Bing Crosby & Connie Boswell 1937, Fats Waller 1937, Bunk Johnson 1944, etc.

Concert Pitch

A $B\flat$ $F7$ $B\flat$ $F7$

Won't-cha come a-long with me, To the Mis-sis-sip-pi?

$B\flat$ $B\flat7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat m$ $B\flat$ $F7$ $B\flat$ $F+7$

We'll take the boat to the lan' of dreams, Steam down the riv-er down to New Or-leans. The

B $B\flat$ $F7$ $B\flat$ $F7$

band's there to meet us, Old friends to greet us,

$B\flat$ $B\flat7$ $E\flat$ $E\flat m$ $B\flat$ $F7$ $B\flat$

Where all the light and the dark folks meet, This is Ba - sin Street.

C $B\flat$ $D7$ $G7$ $A\flat7$ $G7$

Ba - sin Street, is the street, Where the e - lite, Al - ways meet, in

$C7$ $F7$ $B\flat$ $B\flat\circ$ $Cm7$ $F7$

New Or-leans, Lan'of dreams, You'llnev-erknowhow nice it seemsor just how much it real-ly means.

D $B\flat$ $D7$ $G7$ $A\flat7$ $G7$

Glad to be, Yes sir - ee, where wel-come's free, Dear to me, Where

$C7$ $F7$ $B\flat$ $E\flat7$ $B\flat$ $F7$

I can lose, My Ba-sin Street Blues.

Solos at "C"

Often performed with the pick-ups, 1st & 3rd bars as a melodic solo (vocal or instrumental), with ensemble coming in on the 2nd & 4th bars echoing the melody.